

# DUTCH ENGLISH

## Dutch

- Initially their headquarters was at Pulicut after obtaining permission from king of Chandragiri till 1690 and then Nagapatnam.
- They popularized spice and textile trade, besides they exported indigo, Saltpetre and raw silk.
- Dutch commercial activities began to decline by the beginning of 18th century and with the Battle of Bedara with the English in 1759 came to an end.

## Danes

- They founded settlements at Tranquebar (Tamil Nadu) in 1620 and at Serampore (Bengal) in 1676.
- Their headquarters in India was Serampore.
- They were more concerned with the missionary activities than trade.
- They established their factories at Masulipatnam and Porto Novo.

## French

- The first French factory was set up at Surat by Francois Caron in 1668.
- Later Maracara set up a factory at Masulipatnam in 1669 by securing a patent from the Golkunda.
- The French (By Francois Martin & Bellanger De Lespinary) acquired from the Muslim governor of Valikoindapuram, Sher Khan Lodi a small village in 1673.
- The village developed into Pondichery and the first governor was Francois Martin.
- They acquired Chandernagar in Bengal from the Mughal governor Shayista Khan in 1690.
- Pondichery (Fort Louis) was made the headquarters of all the French settlements in India and Francois Martin became the governor general of French affairs in India.
- Dupleix was an important French governor in India.
- They fought a decisive battle at Wandiawaush in 1760 against English. The French were defeated and lost almost all their possession in India.

## A NEW PHASE IN EUROPEAN EASTERN TRADE WITH ASIA

- Even after securing the control over the trade routes during sixteenth-seventeenth centuries, the Europeans did not solve the basic pattern which had long dominated trade between India and the West.
- Indian goods were in far greater demand in Europe than were European goods in India. Merchants profited handsomely through the sale of Indian goods, which were of both better quality and lesser price than similar European products. The result was both a drain of bullion from Europe to India, as well as stiff competition for European producers who were unable

to match either the price or quality of Indian goods. In fact the British East India Company, in the first 50 years of its existence, had no interest in the development of colonies, preferring to engage in trade only, following the pattern set by the Portuguese.

- This pattern was changed by 1650 when the power of the old guard British royalist merchants was broken, and a new class of merchants wrested control of the Company.
- They followed the pattern set by the colonial merchants in American colonies and the West Indies, and sought to establish a network of colonies linking England, Africa and India in a complicated network of exchange relationships.
- The Mughal Empire declined in the first half of the eighteenth century. The political vacuum was filled by the rise of regional states like Bengal, Hyderabad, Awadh, Punjab and Maratha Kingdoms. But these regional powers could not provide lasting political stability resulting into a lustful chance for the British East India Company to establish a territorial empire in India. Now a set of institutions and regulations were required to rule India through colonial mechanism. They adopted three methods to expand the British Empire.
- **They were:**
  1. Wars and conquests,
  2. Subsidiary Alliance System, and
  3. annexation of territories through the adaptation of doctrine of lapse.
- Initial method was outright military conquest or direct annexation of territories; it was these areas that were properly called British India. Latter on to consolidate its position diplomatic efforts through treaties and agreements with indigenous rulers were also made.

## Relation between the European companies:

- The European companies in India were competing with each other. Therefore the relationship they enjoyed amongst themselves was far from being cordial. Moreover, it was highly influenced by the events in Europe. For instance the Dutch displaced the Portuguese as masters of the seas around India in the 17th century. It supplanted the Portuguese in most of present-day Indonesia and in the Malay Peninsula etc. During this period it was also successful in driving English rivals from the Malay Archipelago. In 1632 the Dutch killed the English factors, or agents, in Amboina. After the massacre the English East India company conceded to the Dutch the area that became known as the Netherlands East Indies. Its armed merchantmen, however, continued sea warfare with Dutch, French, and Portuguese competitors.

- Similarly Dupleix directed the unsuccessful French struggles against the British to ensure control over India. But the capture of Arcot in 1751 by the British under Robert Clive limited French control to southern India, where it remained supreme until 1761, when the British captured Pondicherry.
- The victories of Robert Clive at Plassey in 1757 made the company the dominant power in India. All formidable European rivalry vanished with the defeat of the French at Pondicherry in 1761. As a consequence of the destruction of Danish naval power in the war between Britain and Denmark in 1801, the power of the Danish company was broken. Its principal Indian possessions, Tranquebar in Tamil Nadu and Serampore in Bengal, were purchased by Britain in 1845.
- The struggle for supremacy for trade in India was finally settled with the establishment of British rule in India, whose foundation was laid after dealing decisively with all the challenges that arose due to stiff resistance from native rulers and the traditional competitors from Europe.
- Impact of the European settlement on India Initially during sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the settlement of European companies in India resulted into interaction between people associated with different socio, economic, political, cultural and religious paradigm. Therefore it was but natural that settlement of Europeans in India influenced the socio-economic and religious life of the people falling under the area of their influence. For instance we find that the general understanding about different cultures became more apparent and it evolved due to interaction between the people from different countries. India also witnessed advent of new art, architecture and culture during the period.
- During the early period of settlement of European companies in India and establishment of trade links between India and Europe proved highly beneficial for India. As a result of these contacts Europeans markets were thrown open to Indian goods. India made huge profits through export of Indian goods to Europe. Wealth began to flow from Europe to India which greatly contributed to the prosperity of the country. However in later period the nature of the European companies in India witnessed change and their sphere of influence increased. In fact they started to influence the balance of power in the sub-continent. In order to benefit from the eastern trade most of the companies involved themselves in activities that were not ethical and moral by any standards. They drove wedge amongst the native rulers and did not shy away in prodding, provoking and instigating them to fight amongst themselves. Moreover the loyalty of the European companies was towards their interest and it fluctuated and changed according to their interest. It would not be an exaggeration to say that European companies added to the level of hatred and feud amongst the Indian elements. They had an added advantage of disciplined and well organized modern army equipped with advanced weaponry. In fact they used their military strength in India to acquire political concessions and powers during the period. This had immense impact on the military system of India. The Indian rulers adopted the new system and employed many Europeans in their army.
- By the last quarter of the 18th Century the English had vanquished all others and established themselves as the dominant power in India. Once the British had consolidated their power, commercial exploitation of the natural resources and native labour became ruthless. The period of economic exploitation adversely affected Indian culture and social life. The prevalent Mughal administrative, legal, revenue and military structures were dismantled and a long period of unhappiness, poverty and exploitation began. In fact it led to drain of wealth from India to England and added to poverty and overall backwardness of India.